in the State of Gujarat for revival of sick units.

Generation of employment by KVIC

2789. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission has drawn up special plan for generation of 50 lakh employment avenues in the country;

(b) if so, details of the plan including special plan, if any, for the North-Eastern Region;

(c) the various sector on which the Commission propose to concentrate its activities during Ninth Plan and Objective behind; and

(d) the factors identified for very low performance of this sector in Assam and corrective measures identified so far?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir. KVIC has drawn up special plan for generation of 2 million additional employment in the country.

(b) Based on the recommendations of High Power Committee constituted by the Govt. of India, KVIC has launched a special scheme for employment generation which is know as rural employment generation programme (REGP). It consisted of the following components, namely, Special Employment Programme in selected backward districts, Intensive programme for developing KVI activities in colaboration with other district level agencies in 125 RPDS Blocks, special projects on selected Village Industries like Handmade Paper, Leather, Bee Keeping are three major components of this REGP Programme. This programme is beign implemented in North Eastern Region also apart from other parts of the country.

KVIC has also launched margin money scheme for financing viable V.I. projects. Under this scheme, the beneficiaries from N.E. Region get an additional benefit of 5% margin money.

KVIC in collaboration with North-Eastern council has sanctioned a regional project on development and commercial exploitation of bee keeping activities in the N.E. Region.

Special attention is being paid for development of village industries such as handmade Paper and bamboo products in the North-Eastern Region taking into consideration the skill of the people and raw-material available locally.

(c) In order to formulate Ninth Five Year Plan of KVIC the Planning Commission constituted a working group which has submitted its recommendations for KVIC's Ninth Five Year Plan. As per the recommendations made by this working group KVIC will concentrate its activities in the following areas with objectives of better coverage of employment in rural areas:—

1. To create full time and sustainable opportunity in the non-farm sector in rural areas and generate additional employment.

2. To produce saleable articles or to produce services for which there is effective demand and also to step up Khadi production.

3. To support rural development in its widest sense and improve the quality of life of rural people by covering more villages.

4. To forge close linkages with other agencies engaged in rural development.

(d) Comparatively the weak institutional infrastructure facilities in Assam State is one of the major reasons for low performance of this State under KVI Programme. KVIC makes various efforts for motivating the people to take up KVI activities with a view to enhancing the performance of Assam State under various KVI activities.